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Issue No. 102
September 2009



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WE have made no secret in the past that we do not believe the green fields of Daresbury to be a suitable site for a major pop festival.

Whatever the merits of the music, the behaviour of the people attending, the adequacy or otherwise of the road network to cope with the additional traffic, the people who live in the area deserve to be protected from the noise and disturbance that inevitably accompany such an event.

Oxbridge places for four

FOUR Bridgewater High School pupils have won Oxbridge places as a result of outstanding A Level results.

Samantha Osborne and Natasha Holcroft-Emmest are off to Cambridge after each secured four Grade A passes.

Off to Oxford are Jonathan Matthews, who obtained four Grade A passes and Ben Holder who received a scholarship in music after four Grade A passes.

This year saw Bridgewater sixth form's best pass rate to date at 98 per cent.

In an urban environment, where local people are accustomed to a high level of background noise all the time, a pop festival may be acceptable, but in the normally peaceful countryside of Daresbury, or the other neighbouring suburban areas, it is not.

Residents are entitled to object and to fight their cause to the bitter end without risking the loss of substantial sums of money.

Outrageous

Two Walton residents did just that and, for their pains, were ordered to pay costs of some £13,000 in total.

We believe this to be an outrageous injustice.

The unlucky pair did not hire lawyers or expert witnesses to fight their cause but their opponents did. It was a David and Goliath struggle - but David did not have the legal equivalent of even a slingshot.

They were not the only locals to object - simply the two prepared to put their names to an appeal.

We would like to think that other objectors - in particular parish councils who, we understand, have received monies from the festival organisers - might consider chipping in to help meet these legal costs.

And we would hope the threat of such costs will not deter local people from objecting again next year.

Editor's Comment



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Sisters have the best kept garden

TWO sisters have won Stockton Heath's Best Kept Garden competition - with a little help from a friend.



The prize will go to Ann Thorburn and Margaret Clark, of Grappenhall Road whose attractive garden forms a perfect setting for their historic cottage home.

Ann and Margaret are helped by Jesse Woods, who tackles the hard



maintenance work, digging, weeding, etc.

Margaret said: "For many years, Ann looked after the garden. She is the brains behind it. But she suffered an accident some time ago so now Jesse does the physical work.

"I don't really do anything much."

Ann joked: "Margaret is my inspiration!"

Between the three of them, they have created a wonderful, lawned, cottage garden with an orchard and Lumb Brook running at the back of it.

The cottage itself has a fascinating history. In Nelson's times it was used for making and bleaching sails for ships, using water from the brook.

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Radio ham's planning victory

AMATEUR radio enthusiast David Given has won planning permission for a 9.5m radio antenna in the rear garden of his home in Littlecote Gardens, Appleton.

Parish councillors had objected on the grounds of visual impact, unneighbourly development, proximity of ancient woodland at the rear, and effect on television reception.

Letters of objection on similar grounds were also received from a neighbour but there were letters of support from the Radio Society of Great Britain and Warrington Amateur Radio Club.

But planning officers said there would be no impact on trees, nor television reception and recommended approval.

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Residents lose phone mast battle

RESIDENTS have lost a lengthy battle to block plans for a mobile 'phone mast in Longwood Road, Appleton.

Borough planning chiefs have given the go-ahead for O2 to erect the mast despite objections from nearly 100 residents and Appleton

Parish Council.

The 15m high mast will be accompanied by two equipment cabins and other associated

equipment.

It was the company's third bid for planning consent. One was refused by borough planners and the second was withdrawn.

The eventual plan involved a mast of reduced height, 50m further away from the junction with Dipping Brook Avenue and Pewterspear Green Road than the original location.

In addition, the company provided a detailed explanation as to why it could not use other locations or share

masts with other companies in the vicinity.

Residents claimed the mast was inappropriate in a residential area and out of keeping with a landscape which includes trees, green spaces, sculptures, Roman pillars, etc.

They also claimed network coverage in the area is adequate with O2 already having reached the 80 per cent coverage required by the Government.

New nursery to go ahead

THE way has been cleared for an £800,000 new nursery unit and play area at Appleton's Cobbs Infant School.

Planning chiefs have approved the scheme – and borough council education chiefs say funding is available.

The need for the development was highlighted as part of a review of primary education across the borough which showed

that the existing nursery was in a poor condition and needed replacing.

Although there are plans to reduce Cobbs to a three form entry school, this applies only to children in the statutory 5-11 years age range. The nursery will continue unchanged in the replacement building which should be ready next year.

Top student

A STOCKTON Heath student from Liverpool John Moores University has won an award after his final year.

Edward Cottrill won the Best HND Final Year Student in Construction Management Award, sponsored by specialist recruitment company, Hays Construction.

He received a cheque and framed certificate at the university's prize giving ceremony.

Company director Pam Lindsay-Dunn said: "This prize is a small step to reward the next generation for their hard work.

"Not only is it great to support students to pursue a career in construction management but we would also encourage students to explore the many employment opportunities that exist locally."



Pictured at the ceremony Edward (left) with Jeff Taylor, regional director at Hays Construction.

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Many people are put off by the idea of a wedding abroad as they believe that the price tag accompanying the wedding will be way out of their price range. However, we are confident that we can find the perfect wedding at a reasonable and affordable price.

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Mike Stansfield with a selection of the Remembrance Crosses.

Remembering the fallen

EVERY year, Royal British Legion stalwart Mike Stansfield finds he is approached by people who would like to remember fallen servicemen and women with a Remembrance Cross.

The small, wooden crosses are available from the Royal British Legion, but to be sure of getting one for Remembrance Day it is best to order one in advance.

Mike, a member of Stockton Heath British Legion Club, is anxious to make sure anyone who wants one of the crosses can get one this year.

He said: "Most people buy a poppy for Remembrance Day, but an increasing number of people ask me where they can get the crosses.

"The answer, of course, is from the British Legion. But we need to order them in advance.

"You can get them for each of the services and even for different regiments or units, or you can simply get one with a poppy on."

Anyone who would like one should contact Stockton Heath British Legion Club on 01925 262037 or Grappenhall and Thelwall British Legion Club on 01925 263819 or any other RBL club.

An evening with Lord Ashbrook and friends

A LIGHT-hearted look at gardening will be the theme of a special event at Arley Hall.

An Evening with Lord Ashbrook and Friends will be held on Wednesday September 30.

It is a rare opportunity to meet hall owner Lord Ashbrook and friends for a look at the art of gardening.

Events start at 7pm with cheese and wine, tea or coffee in the main gallery, and conclude at approximately 9.45pm.

Sam Youd, head gardener at Tatton Park for more than 20 years, who is an Associate of Honour of the RHS, will be one of the friends.

He will be joined by presenter Jeff Turner, head of gardens for Granada TV for 20 years, and John Steedman, plant buyer for the City of Manchester and assistant parks manager for Manchester South.

They will join Lord Ashbrook on stage and begin with a series of short horticultural stories, remedies and anecdotes. They will then answer gardening questions from the audience.

Lord Ashbrook will talk about his love of gardening and about his award-winning gardens at Arley and some of his favourite plants.

Organisers say the programme is designed to appeal to both gardeners and non gardeners alike. Tickets are available from the Arley Estate Office on 01565 777353.

Jewellers set to re-locate

THE eagerly awaited relocation of Evans and co in Stockton Heath is nearing completion.

The new premises at 39 London Road look set to be open mid-September.

Director Chris Evans commented: "The new larger shop and display area has allowed us to expand our brand range.

"We have been able to introduce a new watch brand 'Chronoswiss' and this multi award winning brand will compliment our jewellery fantastically well".

Along with the new watches Evans and Co will also be expanding their popular Pandora

and Silverbox ranges.

On the workshop side, Evans and Co can now offer the full CAD (computer aided design) experience. CAD provides huge flexibility on designs that can now be offered to the customer, whether it be re-modelling old jewellery or creating new, a 3D image of the design can be seen to ensure the customer is truly happy with the design.

Chris added: "Everyone at Evans and Co would like to thank all of our customers over the past six years and hope to see you all again soon in the new shop!"



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Planners think twice on takeaway proposal

PLANNING chiefs are to visit London Road, Stockton Heath before deciding if plans to convert part of a fashion shop into a hot food takeaway can go ahead.

The scheme would see one part of the double-fronted Sarah Siddons shop converted and a flue erected at the rear of the premises. But the

existing first-floor retail element of the shop would be retained.

Almost 350 people have lodged objections and there is opposition also from Stockton Heath Parish Council.

Coun Celia Jordan and Coun Sue Dodd urged members of the borough's development control committee to carry out a site inspection before coming to a decision.

They said the change of use could have an impact on road safety and lead to smell problems. There were also concerns about the proximity of a bus stop and the likelihood of litter.

Planning officers, however, are recommending the application by KSJ (UK) Ltd should be approved. They say there will be no harm to residential amenity and the proposed change of use will have no adverse impact on the character or appearance of London Road.

Church service for all ages

A SPECIAL 'all age' service is planned in Stockton Heath on Sunday September 6 to welcome everyone back after the summer holidays.

The service, at Stockton Heath Methodist Church, starts at 10am with a buffet breakfast.

One of the worship leaders Kit Heald said: "This is an annual event but is extra special this year as some young children will be welcomed by baptism too. The All Age Worships are informal services and refreshments are served at them. Some are held in the hall instead of the church building and in the summer there is often an outdoor service."

Everyone is welcome to the service which will be held in the church hall on Walton Road, Stockton Heath.

Further details are available from Kit on 01925 268425 or email kitheald1@ntlworld.com

Seventh green flag for charity

FOR the seventh successive year, the Walton Lea Project has won a Green Flag Award for its maintenance of open spaces and the accessibility of its site.

The charity operates from a one acre Victorian walled garden at Walton Lea which, prior to the charity starting, lay overgrown and neglected.

It employs and trains adults with learning difficulties in horticulture and two years ago took over the Long Lane Garden Centre, in Warrington, which has also been

awarded a Green Flag.

The two sites produce home grown produce and plants and also stock other locally sourced fruit and vegetables as well as a wide range of local produce including apple juice, cheese, jams, chutneys, eggs, bread, etc.

Much of the produce is sold from a mobile shop and in addition a farmer's market is held on the second Sunday of every month.

Golf day in memory of former colleague

CONSULTANTS, GP's and staff from a local hospital are taking part in a charity golf day in memory of a former colleague who died from breast cancer.

Spire Cheshire Hospital, Stettton, has organised the event to raise funds for Breast Cancer Care. It is at Hartford Golf Club, Northwich, on Saturday September 19.

The event has been held annually for the past four years in memory of Greta Larkings, who was a nurse in Out Patients.

It is organised by Pauline Nevin, a nurse who worked with Greta, and is known as The Greta Larkings Annual Charity Golf Day. It is well attended by consultants, who have to wear pink, GP's, hospital staff and the public.

In the evening there is a presentation, disco and buffet. There is also a raffle/auction with prizes donated by local companies.

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What's On in the Villages

September 8
STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL
Sandy Lane Centre, 7.30pm

September 12
LIVE AT ST WILFRID'S
The Centenary Touring Group present music from shows such as Guys and Dolls, South Pacific, The King and I and Hello Dolly.
St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

September 15
Appleton Parish Council
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudson Green Road, 7.30pm

Every Monday
THE EVERGREENS Senior Citizen's Club
Bellhouse Community Centre, Grappenhall.
Details: 01925 261381

FOLK DANCING CLUB
St Thomas' Primary School, Parkgate Road, Stockton Heath.
8-10pm. Details: 01925 262356

BRIDGE CLUB
Grappenhall Village Sports Club
Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233

LADIES' FRIENDSHIP CLUB
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall.
8pm. Details: 01925 264099

Every second Monday
PARK (APPLETON) WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudson Green Road, 7.30pm

Second and fourth Monday
WARRINGTON ART GROUP
Bellhouse Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall.
7.30pm.

ST MARY MAGDALENE BINGO
2.30pm

Every third Monday
STOCKTON HEATH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY
St Mary Magdalene's Church, Dingle Way, Appleton.
8pm. Contact: Linda Pearson 01925 602803.

NATIONAL VEGETABLE SOCIETY
Cheshire District meeting
Grappenhall Ex-Servicemen's Club, Chester Road, Grappenhall.
8pm. Details: 01925 265773.

Every fourth Monday
MARSHFIELD WI
Independent Methodist Chapel, Knutsford Road, Grappenhall. 7.30pm

Every Tuesday
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall. 7.30pm.
Contact: 01925 757582.

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Every first Wednesday
Walton WI
St John's Church Community Hall. 7.30pm

First and third Wednesday each month
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
Sandy Lane Centre, Stockton Heath.
8pm. Details: 01925 268311

Every third Wednesday
HIGHER WALTON WI, St John's Community Hall, 7.45pm. Details 01925 262001.

Every Thursday
THE SILVER QUAYS Senior Citizen's Club
The Quays Community Centre, Thelwall New Road, Thelwall.
Details: 01925 753474.

BRIDGE CLUB
Grappenhall Village Sports Club
Stockton Lane. 7.30pm. Details 01928 712233

Every second Thursday
STRETTON WI
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudson Green Road, 2.30pm.

Every third Thursday
NORTH EAST CHESHIRE FLOWER CLUB
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudson Green Road. 2pm.
Details: 01925 740272.

GRAPPENHALL WI
Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane
2.15pm

Every Friday
APPLETON TODDLER GROUP
Appleton Parish Hall, Dudson Green Road.
9.45-11.30am. Details: 01925 604898.

**To list your event call Village Life on
01925 623632**



Residents' £13,500 bill for fighting music festival

TWO residents who tried to stop the Creamfields music festival going ahead lost a legal battle - and were landed with £13,500 costs.

A judge ordered Paul Barlow and Peter Priestner - members of the neighbourhood action group which opposed the festival at Daresbury over the August Bank Holiday weekend - to pay the costs following a two-day appeal hearing.

Originally Halton Borough Council and festival organisers Cream had sought costs totalling £23,500, but District Judge Miriam Shelvey reduced the amount.

It was the fourth time the event had been held at Daresbury and, as in previous years, many residents barricaded their homes and gardens for the weekend to keep revellers out.

Others went away for the weekend to avoid the noise and disturbance.

Mr Barlow said he had been stunned by the costs award.

"It was a victory for the legal system over common sense," he said.

Anti-social

Earlier this year, Halton Council granted a licence for the controversial festival on land owned by Lord Peter Daresbury, despite opposition from 160 local residents who claimed it caused a noise nuisance, traffic congestion, drug and alcohol problems, litter and anti-social behaviour.

Mr Barlow and Mr Priestner decided to appeal against the council's decision and found themselves in a David and Goliath struggle against lawyers and expert witnesses engaged by Halton Council and the Cream organisation.

Mr Barlow admitted he had expected the appeal hearing to be similar to the original application by Cream.

He said: "It turned out to be more a technical and legal argument.

"I am actually annoyed with Warrington Borough Council

because they originally opposed Cream's application for a permanent licence. But at the appeal they stated that in their opinion the festival did not cause a nuisance. After that, we didn't really stand a chance."

Object

Mr Barlow said it was likely he would object to the Creamfields festival again next year - but that he would not appeal against the decision if the application was granted.

Mr Priestner was not actually at the appeal hearing because he was away on holiday. But he was still ordered to pay costs.

30,000 attended - but no 'serious incidents'

POLICE said more than 30,000 music fans attended Creamfields - but that there were no reports of serious incidents.

Inspector Giles Pierce, who led the police planning team said: "We are extremely pleased with the policing operation for this year's Creamfields music festival.

"We worked closely alongside the

organisers of the event to build on the success of last year. Our main aim was to ensure the safety of festival goers and to minimise disruption for the local community."

Ten people were arrested over the weekend for a variety of offences including possession of drugs with intent to supply, public order offences, fraud, aggravated vehicle taking and drink driving offences.

Warning

A total of 21 people received a caution on site - all for drugs offences. One person also received a street warning for possession of cannabis. A variety of drugs and weapons were left in the amnesty bins.

There were 19 thefts from tents reported to police during the event, including one theft of a tent and its contents. Also reported were 43 other incidents of theft, including two thefts from motor vehicles and two thefts of motor vehicles.

Five assaults were reported over the weekend along with one robbery.

There were a few problems with traffic heading to the site on Saturday morning - with some congestion on the M56 and on local roads, which caused some delays for festivalgoers trying to get to the site.

The general view of local residents was that the noise problem was worse this year than last.

The music could be heard as far away as Appleton, Stockton Heath and even Lymm.

One Appleton resident said he had to turn up the sound on his television to drown out the noise. His teenage children could actually recognise the groups playing.

Superintendent Jed Manley said: "This is the fourth time that Cheshire has hosted Creamfields - one of the biggest public events we police. We are pleased with the policing operation for this year's event and we are grateful for all the hard work of our officers and of the police planning team."

The Kitchen Quarter Ltd



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Hospital provides some cheer for Cheerleaders

GALAXY Flyers Junior Cheerleading Team, who train at Evans House in Warrington, really have something to cheer about.

For Spire Cheshire Hospital at Stretton has provided 20 new tracksuits for the team.

The team has recently returned from representing the UK at the European Cheerleading Championships in Sweden.

Members include Megan, the niece of Alison da Silva (hospital

director at Spire Murrayfield Hospital, Wirral) and India the daughter of Anne-Marie Krivonjeva (national recruitment manager for Spire).

The Galaxy Flyers were nominated for Warrington Sports Team of the Year and one of the team members is the current Junior Sports Personality for 2009. Team coach is Becky Chadburn.

Wind turbine withdrawn

A PLANNING application for a 12.3 metres high wind turbine, with a blade of 2.7 metres at St Matthew's CE Primary School, Stretton which was submitted to the borough council, has been withdrawn.

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Law firm celebrates with cake all round

FORSHAWS Davies Ridgway LLP (FDR) celebrated their 1st Birthday in the only appropriate way, with cake!

FDR was officially one year old in July following the joining together of Forshaws and Davies Ridgway in 2008. To celebrate all five offices in Warrington, Stockton Heath and Frodsham had a birthday celebration with birthday cake and bubbly.

The practice also had an additional cake made which was donated to the day care unit at St Rocco's Hospice of which Norman Banner, Partner at FDR, is a trustee.

Norman commented, "The past twelve months have been challenging. Most of us Members have been through mergers before and through recessions before but never both in the same year. Despite the challenges we've had an incredibly successful first year and wanted to celebrate with our colleagues, and as everyone knows the best way to celebrate a birthday is with cake! The larger combined practice now means that FDR can provide clients with specialist legal advice in a whole array of legal specialisms. Even in the rare cases where we can't help a client with a query we will know someone who can!"

Norman added, "We have a great relationship with St Rocco's and everyone at FDR felt it right that we share our birthday cake with them. As a trustee of the Hospice I know

that supporting them isn't always about grand gestures and raising money but is often about the small details which can make a real difference to guests at the Hospice, whether that is providing a friendly face or in this case cake."

Norman Banner (right) presenting a birthday cake to Pam Sherratt, Staff Nurse at the Day Care Centre at St Rocco's



Some of the FDR team enjoying birthday celebrations. Clockwise from front centre, Jane Courtney, Rachel Eley, Carla Stenton, Stephen Woodall (Member), Deborah Hodd (Member), Pat Fagan, Hannah Gibson, Phyllis Rigby.

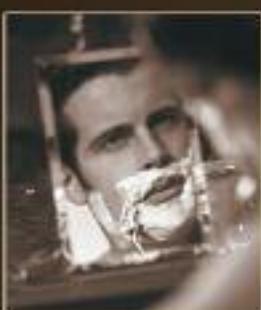
Friends' music programme

THE Friends of Walton Hall Music programme for the autumn launches on September 30 at Walton Hall with the Longfordbrown piano duo - prize winners at the 14th International Schubert competition for piano duos - in a recital of music by Schubert, Schmitt, Debussy and Faure.

The season will continue at Walton Golf Club clubhouse with a recital by Katie Stillman (violin) and Simon Lane (piano), on October 28, followed by Intruplicate, comprising Claire Fillhart (flute), Sally Richardson (oboe) and Claire Dunham (piano) on November 25.

Finally, also at the golf club there will be a Christmas recital and buffet with entertainment provided by Royal Northern College of Music students on December 6. All recitals commence at 7.45pm. Tickets are £10 on the door or from Norman Cutter, 5 Middlehurst Road, Warrington WA4 2LG or 01925 265146.

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Alan satisfies appetite for great tasting food

TO satisfy his appetite for great-tasting food Alan McInnes has now started his own business delivering fresh organic food door to door in the Warrington area.

Now as well as enjoying fresh food he has discovered the added benefit of getting his 10 year-old son to eat fruit.

He has joined Riverford Organic, based at Stockley Farm, delivering award-winning fresh seasonal organic fruit and vegboxes straight from the farm to homes in the area.

Alan says to think of Riverford "as your allotment, without the digging." Riverford grows as much as possible on Stockley Farm with the help of local growers, so you get really fresh veg.

The box scheme is easy and flexible - and delivery is free. You can top up your order with organic meat, milk, eggs and more. Every week Riverford keeps in touch with a newsletter and a recipe to help you get the most out of your box.

Alan is passionate about good food and decided to set up the business to help spread the word to local people. "I've always had an interest in food," explains Alan, "but struggled to find really great-tasting produce. All that changed when I became a Riverford customer - the vegetables taste like they should.

Getting a box also reawakened my love of cooking - and best of all, I even managed to get my 10 year old son, to eat fruit!"



Setting up deliveries in the local area was the next step for Alan. "I was so impressed by my Riverford vegboxes that I decided to start my own business delivering them. Eating good food is so important and I really want to get the message out to local people that organic doesn't have to be expensive. Our vegboxes work out around 20% cheaper than the same produce in the supermarkets, and that's without factoring in our free delivery. By choosing a Riverford vegbox, you're getting the best-tasting, freshest organic vegetables, supporting Stockley Farm and local growers - and you might even find the kids enjoy them too."

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Money Column

By Margaret Black

Limited company director responsibilities

For all reporting purposes, it is important to be clear that you and your company are two separate entities.

If you were previously self-employed then you will have to make some significant mental adjustments, for example:

You can no longer just withdraw money from the business without thinking about how you are going to treat it and you need to be aware of all the implications. You need to seek advice from an accountant to establish how this should be done.

The legal issues are different too, for instance, starting and closing a company is fairly complex and there are tax and accounting issues which you will also need to consider from the start of the business.

Financial Responsibilities

You have to produce accounts that will be more complex than you may be used to producing as self employed either as a sole trader or in a partnership (depending on the size of the business). You have a legal responsibility to:

Keep good accounting records from which accounts can be prepared which give a true

and fair representation of the financial position of the company.

Produce accurate accounts annually. These have to be prepared in a specific format and then filed by the due date with Companies House.

You have to pay any tax due on the profits of the company and furthermore the corporation tax returns have to be submitted to HMRC and both by the due date.

You must deal properly with your responsibility as an employer if you have employees, deducting tax and national insurance as appropriate and paying it to HMRC by the due date.

You must only trade solvently, i.e. you must ensure that you are able to pay the liabilities of the business. Failure to do this is to commit an offence.

Legal Responsibilities

Apart from the financial responsibilities mentioned above, there are other legal responsibilities for the director, such as:

Completing and returning the annual return (form 363) to Companies House. Your accountant will explain to you what this is and



David Watkinson and Margaret Black

will no doubt deal with it for you on your specific instruction.

Acting in the interests of the company shareholders. This means that the directors cannot enrich themselves in a way that damages the company i.e. pay inflated and not market value salaries knowingly when the funds are not there to withstand this.

For further information, you can read more on this issues at the Companies House Website. If you are considering incorporating we strongly recommend that you read these through if you have not done so already.

The Money Column
is provided by
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You have heard the phrase 'we create our own reality.' And we do. All around us are people doing the same. Change yours, i.e. become more optimistic, and some in your orbit you will do likewise.

Let go of any resentment towards

those close to you, and your relationship will be transformed. Easy to say, difficult to do? Would you prefer a lifetime of tension and stress?

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Your inner world creates your

outer world. How do you feel about your life? Are you at peace with yourself?

However you feel about it will be made manifest in the work you do, your relationships, your health, your general level of happiness.

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When we all do it, the recession is over.

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